

LO!

BEHOLD: THE MYSTERIOUS, THE WONDERMENT OF THE WORLD.

ISSUE #1

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WELCOME TO LO!: We here at the UAPA are excited to bring you the first issue of our new Fortean newsletter. As namesake pioneer Charles Fort observed almost eighty years ago, the scientific establishment treats any unusual phenomena it cannot explain as being damned and excluded - hence the title of his first book of the unusual and "impossible" being The Book Of The Damned.

In the months and years ahead, we promise to bring you reports on all sorts of fascinating happenings from around the world, damned by science one and all. All you need is to keep an open mind, and maybe you will agree with us that this world is a fascinating and wonderful place worthy of our unbiased study.

We would also like to hear about your own possible experiences with the unknown, and also ask you to send us Fortean newsclippings or articles to share with our other readers. Remember, we're all in this search together!

MYSTERY CRATERS : Quebec farmers are worried about a strange orange substance growing inside craters formed by meteors that crashed into their pastures the week of June 12, 1994. Scientists conducted tests on scores of the small craters that dot the area near St. Robert, Quebec, 48 miles down the St. Lawrence River from Montreal. Initial tests indicated the strange growth is a common form of earthly fungus, not an alien life form, scientists said on Canadian television. -But- local farmers told CBC-TV they still had their doubts and were keeping their children and livestock well away from the site. Source: Gene Duplantier, Ontario, Canada.

WESTERN CATTLE MUTILATIONS : A new wave of cattle mutilations in Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada has renewed debate over the cause of the mystery deaths.

There was marked disagreement among veterinarians, livestock inspectors and other animal experts over the source of the mutilations that have claimed more than two dozen cattle in New Mexico since last spring, one in Nevada and now four in eastern Colorado.

Colorado state brand commissioner Gary Shoun said he considered most mutilations the work of natural predators. Animals will eat the soft tissue from a dead animal very quickly, said Shoun. The parts they take - eyes, udders, lips and anus - are similar to those that appear to be "cut away" in a mutilation.

But veterinarian Garth Lamb of Las Vegas, who conducted the necropsy on a mutilated steer last February, said, "There's no way this was done by any kind of predator."

The steer, found 150 yards from a rancher's home, had a 6-inch diameter hole cut out of its skull where one ear had been.

THE INTELLECTUAL NEWSLETTER THAT CHALLENGES THE MIND.

"A radiologist I showed that to said, 'My God, that's thick cortical bone. You don't cut that with a knife.' You have to take a bone saw or something pretty heavy to get through that stuff. And I wondered how did they take this bone off in the middle of the night," said Lamb. The steer's entire penile organ had been removed deep into the intestines, but the opening on the belly where it had protruded was "sealed shut," said Lamb.

"How they took that out and closed that body wall back up I don't know," he said. "You'd have to be pretty good cowboys just to ... catch that steer. And this was done by someone with some form of expertise to do things to tissue that would be very difficult to do." Source: Rocky Mountain News, September 1994.

MYSTERY BELLS: Patrick Dearen was camping recently in Castle Gap, near the old Comanche Trail Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River. It is about here that the treasure of Maximillian, deposed emperor of Mexico, is said to be buried. "Hard dark had fallen" said Pat. "And I was standing outside my camper. Then, as if someone were gradually turning up the volume, I heard a sound that can only be described as the tinkling of bells. In the Big Bend area, two others were awakened at midnight by the tolling of bells. Also in the Big Bend National Park, a woman named Sue reports: "It was dusk and they were in the pools." The woman began to have "a vague feeling of apprehension that kept growing stronger." Finally she jumped up and told her husband they had to leave. At that instant she heard, very distinctly, bells and music. Her husband heard nothing. She was very frightened, the jingling bells went on, she ran to the car and they drove away. Source: The Desert Candle, July-August 1994.

SAINT'S BLOOD LIQUEFIES: A substance devout Neapolitians believe is the congealed blood of 4th century martyr St. Januaris liquefied on schedule this past September. Residents hailed the phenomenon as a good omen for the city. The substance, held in two small vials, liquefied as prayers were said in the city's church of Santa Chiara. The twice-yearly event, which scientists have not been able to explain fully, had occurred almost without fail since the middle ages. Faithful believe the liquefaction on the saint's feast day, September 19, is the most important of three. If the blood fails to turn to liquid, Neapolitians believe it is a bad omen for the city's future. Source: Evening Post, Wellington, New Zealand.

HORSES DISCOVERED WITH SLASHED TONGUES IN REDMOND, WASH.: A pair of horses suffered mutilated tongues in separate incidents that seem to point to deliberate acts of cruelty, officials said.

The animals nearly severed tongues were reattached, but the injuries remained a mystery.

"We're stumped," said King County Police spokesman Jerrell Wills.

"We don't know if somebody did this," said owner Lori Cronin, "but this certainly doesn't look like an accident. At least not anymore."

A bewildering factor was the lack of blood on the horses, in the stable or anywhere in their running area.

The first injury was discovered Oct. 13, when Cronin observed that Jasmine, an 18-month-old quarter horse, was salivating heavily and its mouth was discolored. The same thing was repeated two days later when Cronin saw Frosty drooling as Jasmine had been.

The cuts on the horses appeared to be decisively executed so that just an

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eighth of an inch of tissue on the right side held the tongues together. Source: Eugene OR, Register Guard.

STRANGE MONOLITH: In the Columbus, Georgia museum's basement lies a 600-pound granite slab with a carving of a humanoid figure holding up its hands in what some think is a warning. Since its discovery in Douglas County in 1909, the mysterious carving has befuddled generations of experts. Explanations range from an Indian princess' gravestone to prehistoric art to a settler's etchings to even a message from outer space. American Indian movement member Mike Curry has seen pictures of the rock. "It looks like the cover of the book Chariots Of The Gods," said Curry, referring to the best seller about alien visits. "Was it carved by aliens? Or is it a picture of a medicine man?" Whatever the case, Douglas officials and descendants of the man who found the 4-foot tall slab have tried for two years to get it returned to the county. However, there are questions about who owns it and disputes about where it should go. A newspaper story of the era called the stone's depiction "a prehistoric god that is creating a great deal of interest." The rock was dragged by oxen to the Roberts' home and propped up against a tree out front. They called it "Jack." Some believe it comes from the DeSoto era when he was looking for gold near Villa Rica. There is an old Indian burial ground nearby. They used to think it was done by cavemen.

Source: Atlanta Journal.

EERIE SIGHTINGS: If you believe in ghosts, you'll enjoy the stories of Stan Rowe, owner of the Sundance Guest Ranch of British Columbia. After the children have been tucked snug into bed, and as the wind moans through a stand of weeping willows, guests gather in the lounge to wind down from a long day of riding, swimming and tennis. Rowe is a no-nonsense man in his mid-60s who isn't comfortable talking about things that can't be explained. But there have been too many sightings for him to ignore and so, pressured by a couple of guests, he starts by telling the history of the place. The ranch dates to the 1860's to Canada's gold rush. An old supply route to gold mines 400 miles north passes about a quarter-mile from the ranch's main complex. Today it looks like a scar on the sagebrush hillside. But ghosts of pioneers have been known to haunt this trail. Two of these ghosts were supposedly seen one evening in 1978. As two young women hired as cooks headed out for an early evening walk, they passed a barbedwire fence that ran by the old pioneer route. Suddenly, one of the women turned to the other. "Who are those men?" "What men?" her companion asked. "Why those two," she said, pointing. She described them to her friend, who couldn't see them: both were dressed in boots, oilcloth overcoats that scraped the ground and wide-brimmed hats pulled low on their heads. She joked about how they looked dressed for a costume party. Then she gasped. The apparitions walked right through the barbed-wire fence, then disappeared. The women were last seen boarding the next train to Vancouver. Rowe tells another story: several years ago, a rather sober-minded business associate of his was among 18 guests invited to run cattle to northern grazing land. "We'd been rounding up cattle when a big downpour rolled in," Rowe said. The group broke up and headed for cover. When the downpour showed no signs of abating, they decided to make a dash for the safety of the Sundance barn several miles away. By the time they reached the barn, the businessman was missing. A short time later, he came riding in, with a most puzzled expression on his face. Rowe asked what kept him. "This Indian girl," he said. Then described her as dressed in buckskin holding a string of trout. She had asked the way to the main trail, then if he'd like to have dinner. Suddenly, a bolt of

lighting struck a nearby tree, spooking the man's horse. He ran after it into the woods, and when he returned, the woman was gone. Rowe then explained to his guest that no Indian had lived anywhere near there for years. But almost everyone in the region had heard the legend of the Indian woman who supposedly had lived in the last century and whose husband drowned while fishing. Residents say that if you agree to dine with her you won't come back. Rowe declines to say he thinks the stories are true, but he does go this far: "I've been close enough to people to believe that they believe what they saw." Source: Ashcroft, British Columbia newspapers.

SECRET TUNNEL IN SPHINX: Workers repairing the ailing Sphinx have discovered an ancient passage leading deep into the body of the mysterious statue crouched at the foot of the Giza pyramids.

That the tunnel is old - very old - is not in dispute, said Giza antiquities chief Zahi Hawass. Evidence indicates it dates from pharaonic times. What's puzzling is who built the passage? Why? And where does it lead? Hawass said mystery lovers will have to bide their time to learn what the passage is all about. He doesn't plan to remove the stones blocking its entrance until at least February of 1995.

The secret tunnel burrows into the northern side of the 240-foot-long limestone statue, about halfway between the Sphinx's outstretched front paws and its curved tail.

Though Hawass said he's thrilled about the new mystery of the Sphinx, he warns that treasure-seekers are likely to be disappointed. Based on long experience with the Sphinx, he predicts that antiquities workers will find nothing more than rocks.

"But the rocks are their own treasure, because they'll give experts a close-up view at what's happening inside the Sphinx," he said.

Few, if any, structures are as haunting and mysterious as the Sphinx, built by pharaonic artisans 4,600 years ago as half-man, half-beast. Source: Arkansas Democrat Gazette. Oct. 1994

MYSTERIOUS LINES: Straight lines across southern Australia's flat featureless Nullarbor plain that are invisible except by satellites are baffling scientists. The parallel lines, which measure up to 250 miles long and are visible only during daylight using infrared equipment on satellites, were discovered by scientists. They said investigations show there are no known geological structures such as fault lines that could explain the images, consisting of several lines up to nine miles wide and about 62 miles apart near the middle of the plain. "They're strange for several reasons," Ian Barton, a senior physicist with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization Atmospheric Research Division, said in an interview. "They're definitely surface images because we've seen them on different days, of the same structures and shape," Barton said. He ruled out atmospheric explanations such as clouds. "I can't envisage how they could be manmade," he said. The most probable explanation is a different type of soil structure, vegetation or moisture pattern compared with the one surrounding Earth, Barton said. He said the infrared observations indicated that the earth of the lines is slightly cooler than surrounding land. The Nullarbor plain is a 104,000 square mile flat expanse of red sand and low bushes. Source: Melbourne, Australia, newspapers.